

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A group-browsing system comprising:
a plurality of clients forming a group, each client including a shared web browser;
a server linked to the shared web browser of each client and configured to (1) monitor
[[the]] a transmission of a web site URL request from the shared web browser of one client of
the group and (2) to direct [[that]] the web site URL request to the shared web browser of
other clients in the group; and
a gatekeeper module configured to first (1) mask the identity of each client computer
to prevent a web site corresponding to the web site URL request from retrieving any client's
an actual identifier of any client in the group and to second (2) create [[the]] a same
temporary identifier for each client in the group when any client in the group logs on to the
web site so that [[the]] a same web page corresponding to the web site URL request is
displayed for all the clients in the group.

Claim 2 (Original): The system of claim 1 in which the group-browsing system is a
scalable secure system.

Claim 3 (Original): The system of claim 1 in which the gatekeeper module resides on
each client.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 in which the actual identifier is
a cookie and the temporary identifier is a temporary cookie.

Claim 5 (Original): The system of claim 1 in which the gatekeeper further including means for deleting the temporary identifier at the end of a group-browsing session to prevent any client from returning to the web site identified as another client.

Claim 6 (Original): The system of claim 1 in which the gatekeeper further including means for generating a warning message when any client logs on to the web site to inform that client that the other clients in the group will now be able to access that clients private information.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of claim 1 further including means for tracking the actions of all the clients for billing purposes.

Claim 8 (Original): The system of claim 1 further including client software configured to detect the end of a group-browsing session and, in response, to direct a client's secure browser to transmit the web site URL to allow the client to return to the previously accessed web site.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A gatekeeper system for group-browsing, the system comprising:

means for masking the identity of each group member of plural group members in a group to prevent a web site from retrieving any group member's an actual identifier of any group member of the group; and

means for creating a temporary identifier for each group member of the group so that [[the]] a same web page is displayed for all group members.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 9 in which the actual identifier is a cookie and the temporary identifier is a temporary cookie.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 9 further including means for deleting the temporary identifier at the end of [[the]] a group-browsing session.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A group-browsing system comprising:
a shared web browser for each client of a group of clients; and
a gatekeeper module configured:
first to mask the identity of each group member using a shared web browser to prevent a web site from retrieving any group member's actual identifier,
second to create a temporary identifier for each member of the group so that the same web page is displayed for all group members,
third to automatically establish a non-shared browser when a client enters a secure server,
fourth to automatically transfer the temporary identifier to the non-shared browser, and
fifth to delete the temporary identifier at the end of the group-browsing session to prevent any client from returning to the web site as another client.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 12 in which the identifier is a cookie, the temporary identifier is a temporary cookie, and the secure server is a checkout server.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A group-browsing method for a plurality of clients forming a group, each client including a shared web browser, the method comprising:

linking a server to the shared web browser of each client;

using the server to (1) monitor [[the]] a transmission of a web site URL request from the shared web browser of one client of the group and [[to]] (2) direct the web site URL request to the shared web browser of other clients in the group;

masking [[the]] an identity of each client ~~computer~~ in the group to prevent a web site corresponding to the web site URL request from retrieving any client's an actual identifier of any of the clients in the group; and

creating [[the]] a same temporary identifier for each client in the group when any client in the group logs on to the web site so that [[the]] a same web page corresponding to the web site URL request is displayed for all the clients in the group.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14 in which the actual identifier is a cookie and the temporary identifier is a temporary cookie.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 14 further including deleting the temporary identifier at the end of a group-browsing session to prevent any client from returning to the web site identified as another client.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 14 in which the step of configuring the gatekeeper further including generating a warning message when any client logs on to the web site to inform that client that the other clients in the group will now be able to access that client's private information.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 14 further including tracking the actions of all the clients for billing purposes.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 14 further including configuring a client software to detect the end of a group-browsing session and, in response, directing a client's secure browser to transmit the web site URL to allow the client to return to the previously accessed web site.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A group-browsing method comprising:
masking [[the]] an identity of each group member of plural group members in a group to prevent a web site from retrieving ~~any group member's~~ an actual identifier of any group member; and
creating a temporary identifier for each group member of the group so that [[the]] a same web page is displayed for all group members.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 20 in which the identifier is a cookie and the temporary identifier is a temporary cookie.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 20 further including deleting the temporary identifier at the end of [[the]] a group-browsing session.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A group-browsing method comprising:
masking the identity of each group member using a shared web browser to prevent a web site from retrieving any group member's actual identifier;
creating a temporary identifier for each member of the group so that the same web page is displayed for all group members;
establishing a non-shared browser when a client enters a secure server;

transferring the temporary identifier to the non-shared browser; and
deleting the temporary identifier at the end of the group-browsing session to prevent
any client from returning to the web site as another client.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 23 in which the identifier is a cookie, the
temporary identifier is a temporary cookie, and the secure server is a checkout server.